

GENERAL NOTES

Zone-tailed Hawk breeding along Colorado River.—Since the Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) nests principally in canyons of mountainous country from central Arizona southward, a report of its breeding in the immediate valley of the lower Colorado River on the western border of Arizona is of interest. On July 13, 1946, I found a juvenile Zone-tail, obviously not long out of the nest, perched on a branch of dead mesquite in the Bill Williams River delta, Yuma County, Arizona. At my close approach it made no effort to escape, and when I reached to pick it up, its only defense was to spread its wings and open its bill. I tested its ability to fly by tossing it into the air. It flapped clumsily and came to an awkward rest on a near-by bush. During this time the parent birds were flying boldly overhead, uttering a shrill screaming, and frequently alighting in a large dead cottonwood near by. Upon scanning the cottonwood, I discerned a moderate-sized nest of twigs about 40 feet from the ground in one of the main crotches of the tree. Since there were no other suitable nest trees close by, this was undoubtedly the birds' nest. A thorough search (as thorough as the denseness of the brush would permit) failed to reveal the presence of more than the one juvenile, and from the actions of the parent birds I judged that there were no more.

The general area is an almost impenetrable jungle of dead mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*) and rank arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), from which protrudes an occasional stark, dead cottonwood. Close at hand is a small beaver-dammed stream, flowing through the dead mesquite and arrowweed; further away are willow-cottonwood woodlands and towering cliffs. The nest tree is about half a mile from where the small stream of the Bill Williams River joins the waters of Havasu Lake (impounded by Parker Dam).

In this same restricted area, I had seen Zone-tailed Hawks before: on August 14, 1943, three (including one I thought to be a juvenile); on August 25, 1943, two; on September 7, 1943, two; and on May 29, 1946, one. (I did not visit the area in 1944 or 1945.) My latest fall record for the Colorado River valley is September 16 (1946), when I saw one along the Colorado River, about two miles southwest of Parker Dam, in San Bernardino County, California.—GALE MONSON, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker, Arizona.*

Late nests in Yellowstone National Park.—Yellowstone National Park has long been known as a favorite nesting locality for American Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*). For many years these birds have used Eagle Nest Rock in Gardner Canyon and the lofty pinnacles in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Apparently one of these picturesque sites has been occupied every year at least since 1875. Skinner, former park naturalist (in A. C. Bent, 1937. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 167:359) reported 25 nests on pinnacles of the Grand Canyon during the spring of 1914 and a larger number in tree sites. David de L. Condon, Chief Park Naturalist of Yellowstone National Park (letter of January 7, 1947) wrote that on one trip to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone during July 1946 he casually noted 17 nests in use; he added that Ospreys were common nesters throughout the Park, probably about as common as in 1914.

Nest construction and incubation ordinarily take place during May and June. The birds usually produce but one brood in a season, but if their first attempt is unsuccessful they may nest again after an interval of three or four weeks. For the northern part of the United States, Bent (page 361) mentions May 25 as the earliest date recorded for nests containing young and June 18 as the latest date for eggs. In the Yellowstone eggs have hatched during the very last of June. Young Ospreys develop slowly, remaining in the nest from 35 days to 8 weeks.